

EUROLAB NEWSBRIEFING

October - December 2016



Foreword

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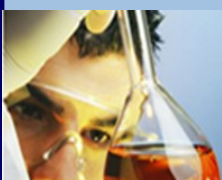
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Dear EUROLAB members,

Please find below the fourth EUROLAB Newsbriefing of 2016 with information regarding the actions carried out by EUROLAB, and the relevant developments to the Laboratory Community.

The year of 2016, which is now ending, was a busy year, highlighting the consolidation of cooperation with several partner entities that have made possible to increase the EUROLAB visibility and the capacity of action in several contexts, promoting its mission in a more consistent and effective way. The achievements of the year are due to the active participation, not only of the members representing the National Associations of the various countries that are members of EUROLAB, but also of many experts who have put their knowledge at the service of the European Laboratory Community, contributing significantly to this objective.

The capacity of action achieved in the current year is a result of several aspects, namely, the development of several reference documents for the future, highlighting:

- the policy paper establishing our structure, aims and role;
- the development of the EAG's that intend to structure a network of knowledge for the different sectors associated to the activity of the Laboratories;
- development of a communication model more appropriate to the modern reality, allowing to highlight the importance of the activity of conformity assessment for the safety and quality of life, a central feature of the message that is intended to promote.

I would also like to emphasize the importance that the EUROLAB Secretariat has had in this project by ensuring that the communication is in line with our objectives, by creating the right interfaces with the society.

The year of 2017 is expected to be very challenging, considering the uncertainty related to the geopolitical changes and its impact in European and Global Economy and Trade, the increasing development of technologies and the review of important documents at the European and international normative and legal framework. This expected changes will give EUROLAB the opportunity to show its role and relevance, supported on the high competence of our Associations and their Members and Professionals.

For 2017 our commitment remains the same of the previous years, to enhance and consolidate the work done and to develop the capacity of EUROLAB in highlighting the role of the Laboratory activity in the world. Looking forward to increase cooperation with you, aiming to achieve the highest purpose of promoting the laboratories contribution to the improvement of safety and quality of life.

I wish all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous holiday season and new year, may you realize all your best dreams and wishes.

Yours Sincerely,

EUROLAB President

Álvaro Silva Ribeiro

2017 European Commission Work Programme

Delivering a Europe that protects, empowers and defends

On 25 October 2016, the European Commission adopted its Work Programme for 2017, setting out the key actions that it intends to take over the next twelve months. The third annual Work Programme presented by the Juncker Commission focuses on delivery of the ten priorities outlined in its [Political Guidelines](#), and is the first programme adopted following consultations with the European Parliament (EP) and the Council. Also for the first time, the Commission will now work with the EP and Council to reach an agreement between the three Presidents on a Joint Declaration to be signed in December.

The Commission's 'to do list' consists of a political [Communication](#) and five annexes.

- ◆ [Annex I](#) lists the **21 new initiatives**, which the Commission commits to **presenting in 2017**. It also includes the **REFIT actions, directly related to these key initiatives, to review the quality of existing EU legislation and check if they are fit for purpose**. The new initiatives of our interest are:
 - ⇒ Implementation of the Action Plan on Circular Economy;
 - ⇒ Implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy;
 - ⇒ Implementation of the Energy Union Strategy: low-emission travel and mobility;
 - ⇒ Implementation of the Single Market Strategy;
 - ⇒ Implementation of the Trade for All Strategy;
 - ⇒ Data Protection Package.
- ◆ [Annex II](#) lists **18 new REFIT initiatives foreseen for adoption in 2017**. It complements the items listed with new initiatives in Annex I. In identifying REFIT priorities, the Commission has taken into account the Opinions of the REFIT Platform. The new REFIT actions of our interest are:
 - ⇒ Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment;
 - ⇒ Road Infrastructure and tunnels safety – Revision of Directive 2008/96/EC and Directive 2004/54/EC.
- ◆ [Annex III](#) identifies **35 priority pending legislative proposals**, where swift adoption by the EP and Council is needed, according to the Commission. The priority pending proposals of our interest are:
 - ⇒ Circular Economy Package;
 - ⇒ EU Emissions Trading System;
 - ⇒ Vehicle approval and market surveillance;
 - ⇒ Swift ratification of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with Canada.
- ◆ [Annex IV](#) identifies **19 pending legislative proposals**, which the Commission intends to **withdraw by April 2017** because they are technically outdated or no longer serve their purpose:
 - ⇒ COM/2014/0566; 2014/0262/NLE;
 - ⇒ COM/2007/0872; 2008/0002/COD.
- ◆ [Annex V](#) lists **16 pieces of existing legislation**, which the Commission intends to **repeal** because they have become obsolete:
 - ⇒ Council Directive (EEC) No 73/361 of 19 November 1973.

For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/zvtkoje>

News BMTA

Dr Jeff Llewellyn, Vice President of EUROLAB and CEO/President of the British Measurement and Testing Association (BMTA) was appointed as a Non-Executive Director of the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) on 11 October. He replaces Sir Paul Judge who has retired.

News EUROLAB-CZ

Technical and Test Institute for Construction Prague, SOE, member of EUROLAB-CZ is now opening a new facility for the calibration of water meters - PP30 T32/15-50 2x10 SEMI 300 with accessories. This calibration facility in our Ostrava branch meets all the requirements of the relevant technical standard OIML R 49-2: Edition 2013 - Water meters for cold potable water and hot water, Part 1: Metrological and technical requirements.



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News RELACRE**CONFMET 2016, 17th and 18th November 2016**

The Portuguese Society of Metrology and RELACRE organized the Metrology Conference CONFMET 2016 with the title "Measurements in a Dynamic World", held on the 17th and 18th November 2016, at PCTA, in the City of Évora (UNESCO World Heritage). The meetings were attended by 150 participants from the National Laboratories of Metrology, Accredited Laboratories, Universities of Lisbon and Porto Academics, and many others, namely, from the Employment and Vocational Training Center of Évora.

There were 25 presentations and 2 invited communications "Mesures dans un monde dynamique" presented by Maguelonne Chambon, Director of Scientific and Technological Research of LNE - Laboratoire National de Métrologie et d'Essais, France and "The international activity of EUROLAB" presented by Álvaro Ribeiro, President of EUROLAB and RELACRE.



On the second day of the conference, a technical visit was made to the Laboratories of the Employment and Vocational Training Center of Évora of the IEFP, where the high level of training practiced by this institution focused on supporting the local aeronautical industry is appreciated.



Also noteworthy is the awarding of the SPMet "Innovation in Metrologia 2016" Award to the young PhD Luís Lages Martins with the scientific work "Optical Metrology Applied to Dimensional Terrestrial Observation of Infrastructures in Dynamic Regime".



WORKSHOP: QUALIDADE DOS RESULTADOS DE MEDIÇÃO



The Workshop "The Quality in the Measurement Results" organized by RELACRE and EURACHEM Portugal, held on 27th October 2016, at IPQ (the Portuguese NMI), in Caparica, had the participation of 10 speakers with invited talks, being attended by 61 participants from the several National Laboratories of Testing.



News ROLAB

ROLAB has launched various interlaboratory comparison schemes, among which:

- Assessment of the laboratory performance in the calibration of measurement instruments - electronic analytical balance;
- Assessment of the laboratory performance in the calibration of measurement instruments - micrometres;
- Environment proficiency testing schemes;
- Proficiency testing schemes for petroleum products - gasoline and diesel
- Proficiency testing schemes to assess the performance of calibration laboratories in temperatures;
- External Quality Control - Performance assessment of laboratories specialised in medical analyses, clinical chemistry, hematology, microbiology;

Further information regarding these schemes and the additional available schemes can be found on the ROLAB website at: www.rolab.ro



Quality is a state of mind

News Turklab



TÜRKAK Harmonization of Auditors Trainings, İstanbul and Ankara (7-9 and 14-16 October 2016)

TURKLAB contributed to the trainings organized by TÜRKAK on 7-9 October 2016 and 14-16 October 2016 on the Experience Sharing and Updating of TÜRKAK Accreditation Auditors. TURKLAB is carrying on its activities in accordance with the Roadmap of the "Harmonization of Auditors" Project initiated by the EUROLAB TCQA committee on the European level. Ms. Neşe Güneş, the Chairwoman of the TURKLAB Board of Directors, made a presentation about the project roadmap and processes to the TÜRKAK Accreditation Auditors.



TURKLAB Academy TS ISO/IEC 17020 Seminar 11-12 October 2016

TURKLAB Academy organized successfully the seminar of “**TS ISO/IEC 17020 Compliance Assessment - Conditions for the Operation of Various Inspection Institutions**” on 11-12 October 2016.



12 October 2016, Board of Directors Meeting

The Meeting of the Board of Directors was held on 12 October 2016. During the meeting with TÜRKAK, activities of the Food Committee and new member applications were discussed and reviewed.



TÜRKAK Advisory Board Meeting, Ankara (25 October 2016)

Ms. Neşe Güneş, the Chairwoman of the TURKLAB Board of Directors, and Mr. Mehmet Hüsrev attended the TÜRKAK Advisory Board Meeting. In the meeting the statistical data regarding the effect of “Conformity Assessment in Food Industry” on the social welfare and economy were presented. The importance of developing future projects and of expanding the business in the conformity assessment in the EU food industry was emphasized, by giving the information on the turnover of the conformity assessment in this area.

TURKLAB Food Committee Meeting 03 November 2016

On 3 November 2016, the Food Committee meeting was held at Yeditepe University Research and Development and Analysis Center Laboratory auditorium in order to discuss industry-specific issues with a high attendance of laboratories.



9 November 2016, Environment Committee Meeting

On 9 November 2016, the "TURKLAB Environment Committee Meeting" was held with high attendance of TURKLAB members. In the meeting; Environment Measuring and Analysis Laboratories Proficiency Regulation" revision, Authorized Measuring and Analysis Laboratories "2016 Minimum Price Tariff" and Industry-Specific Issues are discussed and reviewed. Necessary work plan was issued by receiving suggestions from our members.

**Calibration Committee Meeting 14 November 2016**

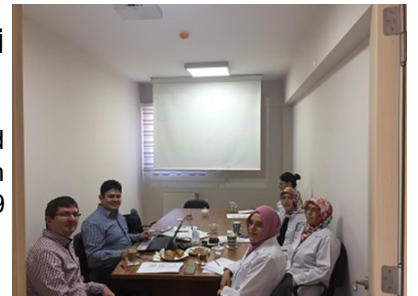
Details regarding preparation of TURKLAB Calibration Guide documents were discussed. It has been decided that an informative seminar on meteorology and calibration is provided to auditors of certifier institutions of standards such as ISO 22000, ISO 18000, ISO 9000 by TURKLAB Academy.

**16 November 2016, TURKLAB Board of Directors Meeting**

Board of Directors Meeting was held on 16 November 2016. In the meeting, information was given on TÜRKAK meetings in which Neşe Güneş had participated. Information regarding the Food Committee and Environment Committee meetings and works were shared and reviewed. New member applications are reviewed and accepted.

**TURKLAB Academy, Seminar for Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality ESKİ (Erzurum Water and Sewage Administration) General Directorate**

Laboratory applied training of "Method Verification in Microbiological Analyses and Measurement Uncertainty" provided exclusively to Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality ESKİ General Directorate was realized successfully on dates 28-29 November 2016 by TURKLAB Academy.



Accreditation

- ILAC has recently published the revised versions of **ILAC R1 and R4** following the successful ballots of the following revised documents: - **ILAC R1:09/2016 – Management of ILAC Documents** was published and is available from the Publications section of the ILAC website. This document provides the rules and procedures for the classification and publication of ILAC documents.—**ILAC R4:10/2016 - Use of the ILAC Logo and Tagline** has just recently been published and is also available from the Publications section of the ILAC website. This revision was carried out to include the new tagline that was approved by the ILAC Executive and MCC in April 2016 and was developed for ILAC as an action item under the implementation of the current ILAC Strategic Plan.
- Whilst not an ILAC publication, The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has published the **OECD Position Paper Regarding the Relationship between the OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) and ISO/IEC 17025**. The Position Paper, as well as other documents in the OECD Series on principles of GLP and compliance monitoring, are publicly available from the OECD website.
- The agenda papers for the Twentieth ILAC General Assembly to be held in New Delhi, India, on Wednesday 2th and Friday 4th November 2016 are available to access via the Meeting Documents page of the conference website. The file sharing area can be accessed from the Meeting Documents page of the conference website at <http://ilac.org/conferences/>.
- Following the recent IAF and ILAC ballots on the outcome of the joint IAF/ILAC evaluation of EA that have recently closed, that the recommendations as detailed enclosed have been adopted in relation to the recognition of the **EA MLA** to the **IAF MLA** and **ILAC MRA**.
- The revised draft **EA-1/14 Procedure for Development and Approval of EA Documents and Adoption of ILAC/IAF Documents**, in clean and track changes versions has been circulated among the EA members.
- The EA Certification Committee (EACC) has been revising **EA-7/04 M 2007: Legal Compliance as a part of Accredited ISO 14001: 2004 Certification**, following the publication of revised ISO 14001:2015 and ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015. The draft has been sent to both EACC Members and EA General Assembly as revised by the EACC WG Environment for a joint 60-day commenting period.
- The **List of Conclusions and Resolutions agreed at the EAAB Meeting** on 12 October 2016 has been made available on the EAAB intranet.
- The approved **Resolutions of the 38th EA General Assembly** have been published and are available on the EA intranet.
- The EA Certification Committee (EACC) has been revising **EA-7/04 M 2007: Legal Compliance as a part of Accredited ISO 14001: 2004 Certification**, following the publication of revised ISO 14001:2015 and ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015. The draft has been sent to both EACC Members and EA General Assembly as revised by the EACC WG Environment for a joint 60-day commenting period.
- The resolutions from the **IAF General Assembly** held on the 4th of November and the JGA resolutions have been posted on the IAF website.
- IAF has issued a call for nominations for the **IAF Quality Manager position**. Mr. Pedro Alves was appointed as IAF Quality Manager by the IAF Board in April 2014, and will thus complete his first three-year term in April 2017. Mr. Alves has agreed to stand for a second and final three-year term; however, in accordance with IAF practice, it is necessary to call for nominations from all IAF Members. Nominations are therefore invited for the IAF Quality Manager position for a three-year term beginning in May 2017.
- Following the success of the [Public Sector Assurance website](#) developed by ILAC IAF, IEC, IIOC, ILAC, ISO, which provides access to over 200 practical case studies and 70 research papers to demonstrate the value of standards and accreditation for the public sector, the ILAC MCC / IAF CMC are seeking ways to collect and share data that show the benefit of standards and accredited conformity assessment to businesses.

Standardisation

- The results of the ballot on **ISO 17034 Final Draft International Standard (FDIS), General requirements for the competence of reference material producers** have been published. The document has been approved by the ISO P-Members.
- The results of the ballot on **ISO/IEC DIS 17021-3 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 3: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems** have been published. The ballot was approved by the members.
- The query 14, document N540 - **query and response on EN 15267-1 from TC 264** has been published.
- The following ballots have been opened:
 - ⇒ ISO/TC 135 has been informed by TC 135/SC 2 secretary, Mr Patrick Qwabe, of SABS, South Africa, that **Mr Dion Agostinho is nominated to be new TC 135/SC 2 chairman** for 6-year period (from 2017-1-1 to 2022-12-31).
 - ⇒ ISO/TC 135 has been informed by TC 135/SC 2 secretary, Mr Patrick Qwabe, of SABS, South Africa,
 - ⇒ ISO/TC 135 has been informed by TC 135/SC 8 secretary, Mr Wontae Kim, of KATS, Korea, that **Mr Man Yong Choi is nominated to be next TC 135/SC 8 chairman** for 6-year period (from 2017-1-1 to 2022-12-31).
 - ⇒ ISO/TC 135 has been informed by TC 135/SC 9 secretary, Mr Rafael Ramos, of ABNT, Brazil, that **Mr Sérgio Damasceno Soares is nominated to be next TC 135/SC 9 chairman** for 6-year period (from 2017-1-1 to 2022-12-31).
- A three-month ballot on **Draft Technical Report (DTR) ISO/IEC 17028, Conformity assessment — Guidelines and Examples of a certification scheme for services** has opened and will close on 2017-01-20.
- A three-month **DIS ballot on ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories**, will open on 2016-12-29 and close on 2017-03-22.
- IEC/TC 123 on Standardization of the management of assets in power systems** has been created as Active on the ISO Global Directory.
- ISO/CASCO and the Technical Management Board (TMB) are organizing a **workshop on service standards** in Vancouver on 28 April 2017. This workshop is going to be held in conjunction with the CASCO 32nd plenary meetings.

- The CIB (Committee Internal Ballot) **SC17 N440 NWIP from SC7 - guidelines for saffron including WD (Working Draft)** was closed. Members voted in favour of the ballot.
- The appointment of the **next chairman of ISO/TC 135/SC 2** (Surface methods) which was put on CIB (ISO/TC 135 N521 with amendment of N525) has been approved. The term of office of the new SC 2 chairman, Mr Dion Agostinho, is from January 2017 to December 2019.
- The appointment of the **next chairman of ISO/TC 135/SC 8** (Thermographic testing) which was put on CIB (ISO/TC 135 N523) has been approved. The term of office of new SC 8 chairman, Mr Man Yon Choi, is from January 2017 to December 2022.
- The appointment of the **next chairman of ISO/TC 135/SC 9** (Acoustic emission testing) which was put on CIB (ISO/TC 135 N524) has been approved. The term of office of new SC 9 chairman, Mr Sérgio Damasceno Soares, is from January 2017 to December 2022.
- **ISO/PC 302 "Guidelines for auditing management systems"** responsible for the **revision of ISO 19011** has opened a 3 months ballot for the Committee Draft (CD) of ISO 19011 from 2016-12-15 to 2017-03-15. As the revision is done in a joint working group with CASCO, ISO is organizing a parallel commenting period through a Committee Internal Ballot (CIB) within CASCO where members and A liaisons will be able to submit comments. The formal ballot will only take place in ISO/PC 302. The CIB will open on 2016-12-17 and close on 2017-03-15.
- The ballot on **ISO/IEC DIS 17011 (Ed 2) Conformity assessment -- Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies** has closed. The members voted in favour of the ballot.
- The following ballots have closed:
 - ⇒ CIB ISO/TC 135 N 521
 - ⇒ CIB ISO/TC 135 N 523
 - ⇒ CIB ISO/TC 135 N 524
- The annual meeting of the **"Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)"** has taken place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland from 30 November to 2 December.
- The **6th meeting of CASCO WG42** will take place from 21 to 23 February 2017 in ISO Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.
- A three-month **DIS ballot on ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories**, will open on 2016-12-29 and close on 2017-03-22.
- **IEC/TC 123 on Standardization of the management of assets in power systems** has been created as Active on the ISO Global Directory.
- The following ISO ballots have closed:
 - ⇒ **ISO/IEC TS 17021-4:2013 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 4: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of event sustainability management systems.** The members voted in favour of the ballot.
 - ⇒ **ISO/IEC TS 17023:2013 Conformity assessment -- Guidelines for determining the duration of management system certification audits.** The members voted in favour of the ballot.
 - ⇒ **ISO 22005:2007 (vers 2) Traceability in the feed and food chain -- General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation.** The members voted in favour of the ballot.
 - ⇒ **ISO/TS 22002-1:2009 (vers 3) Prerequisite programmes on food safety -- Part 1: Food manufacturing.** The members voted in favour of the ballot. **ISO/TS 22002-2:2013 Prerequisite programmes on food safety -- Part 2: Catering.** The members voted in favour of the ballot.
 - ⇒ **ISO/TS 22002-4:2013 Prerequisite programmes on food safety -- Part 4: Food packaging manufacturing.** The members voted in favour of the ballot.
 - ⇒ **ISO/TS 22003:2013 (Ed 2) Food safety management systems -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems.** The members voted in favour of the ballot.

Business Results 2016

Bureau Veritas Q3

- Revenue for the nine months totalled €3,357.7 million, a 1.0% increase versus the same prior-year period at constant currencies.
- Organic growth came in at a negative 0.8% for the first nine months of 2016, including a contraction of 1.0% in the third quarter.

INTERTEK

Intertek Group plc 2016 November Trading Statement

- Strong revenue growth: +10% at constant rates, +18% at actual rates
- High revenue growth in the high margin Products division: +22% at constant rates, +33% at actual rates
- Stable organic revenue growth at constant rates: Products +5.5%, Trade +1%, Resources -13%
- On track to deliver 2016 target of robust revenue growth at constant rates with stable margin

10 months – January to October Revenue Performance

- Revenue £2,097.7m (2500 m EUR)
- Organic revenue £1,896.7m (2259 m EUR)
- Revenue from acquisitions £201.0m (240 m EUR)

Business news

- **Core Informatics has announced a new validated cloud infrastructure offering, built on Amazon Web Services (AWS), for regulated and GxP customers across industries.** The validated cloud infrastructure enables regulated laboratories to experience the cost, scalability, and reliability benefits of AWS's industry-leading cloud infrastructure. The validated cloud infrastructure offering was designed and built by Core Informatics, and runs on the AWS Cloud.
- **Core Laboratories N.V. (NYSE: "CLB US")(Euronext Amsterdam: "CLB NA") repurchased a total of 16,000 of its common shares at an average price stated in USD of \$112.79 per share.** These repurchases were made as part of the Company's existing share repurchase program.
- **DEKRA subsidiary AT4 wireless has been appointed as the first accredited test laboratory in North America by the LoRa Alliance.** At its laboratories in Herndon (Virginia, USA) and Málaga (Spain), DEKRA now provides testing services in North America and Europe for products under the LoRaWAN certification program.
- **In Shanghai (Jiading), DEKRA has opened a new laboratory for testing automotive components and materials.** The focus is the growing demand for safe wireless components for the Internet of Vehicles (IoV) and safe electromobility.
- **DEKRA will test and certify the innovative Laser Coating Removal (LCR) robot for LR Systems BV.** The robot, developed by LR Systems, will deploy a 20kW laser to remove paint from any size commercial and military aircraft with the greatest precision. In addition, the robot allows a faster and cleaner removal process than contemporary methods and contributes to a significantly reduced aircraft ground time.
- **DNV GL launched industry's first technology qualification scheme to assure accuracy of gas flow metering in field conditions.**
- **Hamburg-based Eppendorf AG have acquired Calibration Technology Ltd, headquartered in the National Technology Park Limerick, Ireland.**
- **Huawei had its new HUAWEI FIT model MES-B19 tested according to the TÜV SÜD standard and was awarded the Wearables certification mark.**
- **Intertek has announced the further expansion of chemical regulatory services in the United States with the expansion of its Health, Environmental and Regulatory Services (HERS) department in the District of Columbia to address companies' needs resulting from the recently signed Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform.**
- **Intertek is working with Elekta, a company in the use of radiotherapy and radiosurgery, on new research technology which combines a linear accelerator and MR imaging, enabling imaging while irradiating, for use in the treatment of cancer.**
- **Intertek has announced the further expansion of its sustainability services through a partnership with Environmental Packaging International (EPI), developer of redipoint®, a global Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) reporting solution.**
- **Intertek has collaborated with OCSiAl's Health and Safety Department and its European service provider, Envigo, to prove that TUBALL™ single wall carbon nanotubes fully comply with EU REACH requirements.** Intertek was contracted by OCSiAl to work with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to provide the required chemical safety data and reports. Intertek scientific and regulatory experts were ultimately responsible for the preparation of the robust REACH registration dossier and the coordination of the physchem, tox, and ecotox testing done with Envigo.
- **TÜV India in association with GIZ organized Best Practices Forum on Food Safety and Regulations to successfully conclude the project which was initiated to improve food safety hygiene and product quality in the Indian food processing sector.**
- **New Mexico-based TriCore Reference Laboratories has inked an agreement with iSpecimen, a Boston company that connects medical researchers with appropriate specimens from laboratories and hospitals.**
- **For years, TÜV SÜD ELAB, has offered food, water and environmental analyses and medical laboratory services. The company has now developed a test scheme for the food sector.** Under this voluntary scheme, companies can have the quality of their products tested at regular intervals by a third party and can proactively communicate their commitment to quality.
- **TÜV SÜD announces services for medical device manufacturing, ahead of crucial revision of EU's Medical Device Regulations (MDR).** The services will help equipment manufacturers' transition into the revised manufacturing guidelines.
- **UL officially opened its new Consumer and Retail Services (CRS) Testing Laboratory in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.** The state of the art laboratory spans over 1,300 square meters and expands capacity in the region to test toys and premiums, textiles, footwear, accessories and jewelry for compliance with a variety of safety and performance-related requirements.
- **UL and QUATEST3 (Quality Assurance and Testing Center 3) have announced the signing of an Alliance Agreement to develop a furniture and chemical emissions testing laboratory in Vietnam.** The goal of the agreement is to provide a world-class product testing facility and expertise in regulations that will enable Vietnamese furniture manufacturers to expand their business into global markets.
- **SGS has joined the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) Program and in doing so, supports the Program's vision of widespread implementation of sustainable chemistry and best practices in the textile and footwear industries to protect consumers, workers and the environment.**
- **A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SGS and the Ukrainian Grain Association, uniting the Ukrainian and international grain companies, and one of the organizations in the grain business.** This Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework for cooperation between both parties in the field of agriculture, including production, processing, inspection, verification, testing and certification, trade, exchange of information and technologies.
- **With the intention of promoting Food Safety standards in India, SGS along with Mettler Toledo, a manufacturer of precision instruments and services for use in laboratories and manufacturing, partnered with BRC Global Standards, to promote their new Food Safety Standards.**
- **Seed and crop growers across Brazil can now benefit from the agriculture services of SGS, following the company's recent acquisition of a 75% stake in Unigeo.**

Policy news

Chemicals

- **European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) completed toolkit for REACH 2018 registration.** The last REACH registration deadline will be on 31 May 2018. This deadline concerns companies that manufacture or import chemical substances in low volumes, between 1-100 tonnes per year.

Consumer Protection

- **European and national policy makers, researchers and industry experts have met at the 2016 European Consumer Summit in Brussels to discuss how EU consumer and marketing legislation can be streamlined.** Commissioner Jourová have given the **keynote speech** about consumer information requirements, fairness of commercial practices and terms as well as better enforcement of EU consumer law. Participants have discussed the topics in further detail in several workshops and case studies.
- **The leading legal affairs committee in the European Parliament has cleared a draft law which would allow consumers to use their home online subscriptions for games, video streaming or music when travelling in another EU Member State.** Currently, many restrictions to use subscriptions abroad exist. Following this vote, MEPs and EU governments will start negotiations to agree to a final text. <http://tinyurl.com/hebyeb3>
- **The European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) exchanged views on the proposed regulation that will establish a programme running for the period 2017-2020 with an overall maximum budget of EUR 6 000 000 to support the activities carried out by Finance Watch and Better Finance.** The programme builds on a pilot project (2012-2013) and preparatory action (2014-2016) that was aiming to provide grants to consumer bodies and civil society organisations lacking the adequate funds to conduct research on highly technical topics to the benefit of endusers and non-industry stakeholders.
- **The European Commission proposed new rules for consumer centred clean energy transition with the package of measures to keep the European Union competitive as the clean energy transition is changing global energy markets.** The Commission wants the EU to lead the clean energy transition, not only adapt to it. For this reason the EU has committed to cut CO2 emissions by at least 40% by 2030 while modernising the EU's economy and delivering on jobs and growth for all European citizens.
- **EU ministers agreed on plans to make it easier for consumers to buy products online from shops located in other Member States.** Following the publication of a proposal in May of this year to stop geo-blocking, EU governments and the European Parliament are now deciding on what amendments they want to put forward. Geo-blocking is a common practice under which retailers refuse to sell goods and services to people living in other EU countries. <http://tinyurl.com/zslvmb4>

Energy & Environment

- **First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and Vice-President Jyrki Katainen has set out the Commission's new approach on ecodesign.** President Juncker had proposed a new approach with full political ownership of the Commissioners for new decisions in this field. <http://tinyurl.com/zqz7uow>
- **The European Parliament has approved the ratification of the Paris Agreement by the European Union.** With European Parliament approval of the Paris Agreement ratification – in the presence of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, the United Nation's Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the President of COP 21 Ségolène Royal – the last hurdle is cleared. The political process for the European Union to ratify the Agreement is now concluded. <http://tinyurl.com/ggednjc>
- **Following the European Parliament's ratification and the entry into force of the 2015 Paris agreement, a 12-Member delegation took part in UN (COP22) climate talks in Marrakesh.** The focus of this week's round of talks was on the implementation of the Paris agreement. Delegates worked on making national climate plans as clear and transparent as possible, and on ensuring that the actions taken are traceable and that standardised reporting methods are used. There was also be discussions on enhanced action prior to 2020.
- **The European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) has published a study** entitled "Implementing the Paris Agreement - COP 22 Climate Change Conference in Marrakesh".
- **The European Parliament's inquiry committee into emission measurements in the car industry (EMIS) has continued its work by hearing Alexander Dobrindt, the German Federal Minister of Transport and Olaf Lies, Lower Saxony's State Minister for the Economy, Labour and Transport.**

- **The European Parliament endorsed the deal to revise the National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NECD).** The revision will encompass emission reductions for SO₂, NO_x, NMVOC, NH₃ and PM_{2.5} for 2020 and 2030. The national emission limits for 2020 remain the same as those in the Gothenburg Protocol, such as a reduction in NO_x emissions in the UK by 55% (against 2005 base level) by 2020. But the revised NECD sets additional targets for 2030, including a 73% reduction in NO_x.
 - **The European Commission in its [press release](#) called the EU countries to reduce consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags.** The report indicates that EU governments have until 27 November 2016 to adopt measures to cut the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags, and inform the European Commission about it which is required by the EU Plastic Bags Directive.
 - **The European Commission has approved an investment package of €222.7 million from the EU budget to support Europe's transition to a more sustainable and low-carbon future.** The EU funding will spur additional investments leading to a total of €398.6 million to be invested into 144 new projects in [23 Member States](#). <http://tinyurl.com/zs5jdnh>
 - **European Commission Vice-President for Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič and Energy Minister of Ukraine, Ihor Nasalyk, signed a new Memorandum of Understanding on a Strategic Energy Partnership between the EU and Ukraine.** The Memorandum of Understanding aims to invigorate energy co-operation between the EU and Ukraine. <http://tinyurl.com/zms72aq>
 - **The European Commission has released a set of proposals on a new rule book for the EU energy market. The proposed reform will enable a clean energy transition to take place, at the best value for consumers.** The rules will allow the energy system to be ready for the rising share in variable renewable energy: by 2030 half of our energy needs will be met by renewables, up from 29% in 2014. <http://tinyurl.com/zlddxhl>
- Morocco, Germany, France, Spain and Portugal have signed a roadmap for sustainable electricity trade, in the presence of European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete.** The roadmap, signed in Marrakesh at the COP22 climate summit on 17 November, aims to identify barriers to trade in renewable electricity between the five signatory countries and suggest ways to overcome these barriers. <http://tinyurl.com/j7gl97o>
- Miguel Arias Cañete, European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy and Ziad Jibril Sabra, Advisor to the Minister and Director, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan, have launched a new platform for cooperation on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean.** The platform, launched on 14 November at the COP22 climate summit in Marrakesh, Morocco, aims to provide a forum for discussing energy policy objectives and measures, and to identify and implement joint initiatives. <http://tinyurl.com/zq7jk2b>
- Following two discussions of the College of Commissioners, most recently in Strasbourg on 25 October, First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and Vice-President Jyrki Katainen set out the Commission's new approach on ecodesign, at an event hosted by the European consumers organisation, BEUC.** The College agreed, on the proposal of President Juncker, to take a package-based approach going forward and to ensure that the Commission works in particular on those products where there is a clear benefit for European consumers in terms of energy and cost savings, job creation and revenue benefits for European industry, and energy or resource efficiency which contributes to the fight

Medical Devices

- **Following the political agreement on Medical Devices and on In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices proposals, the two draft Regulations will now be subject to legal-linguistic finalisation.** The finalised texts will be submitted to the Council for formal adoption as its position at first reading. They will subsequently be transmitted to the European Parliament together with the Council's Statements of Reasons.
- **The German delegation, supported by the Austrian delegation, has submitted the statement concerning the German language version of the proposals on Medical Devices and on In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices.** It was stated that the German-language version requires considerable improvement in order to bring it in line with the English-language version. The French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Slovenian delegations have expressed similar concerns regarding their respective language versions.
- **Medical technologies regroup at EU level into one single representation: MedTech Europe.** The members of EDMA (the European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association) and Eucomed (the European Medical Device Manufacturers Association) have voted to dissolve their respective European associations. A new MedTech Europe single entity has been created, representing the European medical technology sector, from diagnosis to cure. As a consequence, EDMA and Eucomed no longer exist.
- **On 14 November 2016, the French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety ("ANSM") issued the English version of an information bulletin and a Q&A document concerning the consequences of de-notification or termination of notified bodies' ("NB") activities, dated 24 October 2016.** The issue of the de-notification of notified bodies was raised at a meeting of the competent authorities of the EU Member States on 19 October 2016. At this meeting, competent authorities agreed on guidelines for managing such situations. In the information bulletin the ANSM announced that, in line with these guidelines, it had established procedures for medical device manufacturers affected by the de-notification of a notified body and established in France. <http://tinyurl.com/heaagn3>

Food

- **A joint Europol-INTERPOL report has been published.** It presents the results of their joint food fraud operation OPSON V. Run over the course of four months (November 2015 - February 2016) across 57 countries, **OPSON V** resulted in the total seizure of 11 131.18 tonnes, 1 449 056.40 litres and 5 549 328 units of either counterfeit or substandard food and beverages as a result of checks carried out at shops, markets, airports, seaports and industrial estates. The biggest seized category in food products is condiments, representing 66% of the seizures reported in tonnes. It includes commodities such as vegetable oils, vinegar, salt, pepper, spices, <http://tinyurl.com/jrvbyao>
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- **MEPs have called for EU limit on industrial trans fats in food.** The EU should place mandatory limits on industrially-produced trans-fatty acids (TFA) which may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, infertility, Alzheimer's, diabetes and obesity for consumers. TFA intake is mostly linked to consumption of industrially produced, partially hydrogenated oils. <http://tinyurl.com/jcou98l>
- **A survey of Norwegian consumers has found that 75% of consumers want a law that makes it illegal to use the Norwegian flag in the marketing of foods that are not packaged in Norway or made with Norwegian ingredients.** <http://tinyurl.com/zot4pad>
- **The European Commission has announced it would continue and scale up its fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), with the launch in 2017 of a second Action Plan (Roadmap).** The new Action Plan will take the form of a Commission communication to the European Parliament and the Council will focus on supporting Member States, particularly in establishing, implementing and monitoring their National Action Plans, bringing together EU funds and instruments in order to promote innovation and research against AMR and strengthening its leading role in global fora, notably within the international organisations and with major trade partners. <http://tinyurl.com/jrvbyao>
- **The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has warned EU Member States to step up surveillance for Salmonella Enteritidis as a multi-country outbreak, including one fatality, linked to a Polish packing centre continued to rage across Europe.** <http://tinyurl.com/gturnn7>
- **EU to launch new antimicrobial-resistance action plan in 2017. The Commission will continue and scale up its fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), with the launch in 2017 of a second Action Plan (Roadmap).** The new Action Plan will take the form of a Commission communication to the European Parliament and the Council will focus on supporting Member States, particularly in establishing, implementing and monitoring their National Action Plans, bringing together EU funds and instruments in order to promote innovation and research against AMR and strengthening its leading role in global fora, notably within the international organisations and with major trade partners. <http://tinyurl.com/jrvbyao>
- **EFSA has published two guidance documents on novel food and traditional food from third countries to help ensure that these foods are safe before risk managers decide whether they can be marketed in Europe.** <http://tinyurl.com/gnkn696>
- **EFSA backs novel Ergoneine® safety.** A synthetic l-ergothioneine, marketed as Ergoneine®, is safe under proposed conditions of use, according to the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA's) Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA). <http://tinyurl.com/jnh7r9y>
- **Cargill believes it has passed stevia taste test just in time for new nutrition labels.** Consumer research leads Cargill to believe that it has finally rounded the stevia taste bend, just in time for the revamp of nutrition labeling phases in over the next several years. <http://tinyurl.com/h5k6hxq>
- **EU to launch new antimicrobial-resistance action plan in 2017. The Commission will continue and scale up its fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), with the launch in 2017 of a second Action Plan (Roadmap).** The new Action Plan will take the form of a Commission communication to the European Parliament and the Council will focus on supporting Member States, particularly in establishing, implementing and monitoring their National Action Plans, bringing together EU funds and instruments in order to promote innovation and research against AMR and strengthening its leading role in global fora, notably within the international organisations and with major trade partners. <http://tinyurl.com/jrvbyao>
- **Dutch consumer association, Consumentenbond, is fighting for tougher regulations on products claiming to be whole-grain as it says manufacturers are deliberately misleading consumers in their labelling.** Currently only bread must contain 100% whole-wheat flour in order to be labelled 'whole-grain', whilst other popular products such as crisp-breads, biscuits and gingerbread go unregulated. <http://tinyurl.com/js9ztze>
- **The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, which is the United Nations central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, has published the report "Role of Food Safety in ensuring food safety, access to adequate nutrition, and improved health outcomes".** Additionally, the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) is proposing one HLPE report in each of 2018 and 2019 on areas in the SDGs that are underexplored in the food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture area.
- **The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), powered by The Consumer Goods Forum, hosted two hundred industry and government leaders at briefings in Washington D.C. on 16th November. Foremost on the agenda was the alignment between GFSI and FSMA in the marketplace.** The discussions highlighted the potential to better leverage GFSI for FSMA implementation, international business and enhanced food safety for consumers everywhere. <http://tinyurl.com/jt87eom>

International Free Trade Agreements

- The EU and Canada have signed the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and a new **Strategic Partnership Agreement** that would deepen cooperation in vital areas such as **human rights, international peace and security, economic and sustainable development, justice, freedom and security**. By removing almost all import duties, CETA will allow European exporters of industrial and agricultural goods to save up to 500 million euros every year. The agreement protects workers' rights, environmental standards and consumer safety. European products with geographical indications will enjoy special status on the Canadian market. Governments will retain all of their powers to legislate, regulate and provide public services. A new public system for resolving disputes brings greater transparency, giving investors confidence that rules will be respected at all times. The system enshrines the right of governments to regulate, including when such regulations affect a foreign investment. <http://tinyurl.com/jfxwkt8>
- The Council adopted by written procedure a package of decisions on the comprehensive economic and trade agreement with Canada (CETA), including: a decision on signature of the agreement; a decision on the provisional application of the agreement; and a decision to request the consent of the European Parliament for the conclusion of the agreement. The representatives of the Member States also adopted a joint interpretative instrument. This instrument, which is a joint text with Canada, will provide a binding interpretation of CETA's terms on specific issues. <http://tinyurl.com/gmb8b7g>
- The European Council has adopted its **conclusions on migration, trade, global and economic issues and external relations**.
- On 22 November, Parliament negotiators clinched the final deal with the Council and Commission on the legal framework for curbing the trade in conflict minerals. The new law will clean up mineral and metal trade by enhancing due diligence obligations in sourcing tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold (3TG), essential for consumer electronics. <http://tinyurl.com/zugny4b>

Public Consultations and Call for Tenders

- The European Commission has launched a **call for tenders** on sustainable transport infrastructure charging and internalisation of transport externalities. Deadline: 6 January 2017
- The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the fitness of EU legislation for maritime transport safety and efficiency. Deadline: 8 January 2017.
- The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the evaluation of the Aerosol Dispensers Directive. Deadline: 15 January 2017.
- The European Commission had launched a public stakeholder consultation on the Euratom Research and Training Programme. Deadline: 15 January 2017.
- The European Commission has launched a public stakeholder consultation – interim evaluation of Horizon 2020. Deadline: 15 January 2017.
- The European Commission has published a request for inputs from interested stakeholders on EU-Mexico trade relations. Deadline: 25 January 2017.
- The European Commission had launched a public consultation on policy options to set minimum quality requirements for reused water in the European Union. Deadline: 27 January 2017.
- The European Commission has launched a public consultation in relation to the REACH REFIT evaluation. Deadline: 28 January 2017.
- The European Commission has launched a **public consultation** on 2-Furaldehyde (Furfural) in the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on cosmetic products. Deadline: 20 February 2017
- The European Commission has launched a **public consultation** as part of its mid-term evaluation of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). Deadline: 27 February 2017
- The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the experience with the first year of application of the greening obligations under the direct payment scheme (Common Agricultural Policy). Deadline: 8 March 2017.

Andreas Kinzel and Ömer Güzel participated at the EA Laboratory Committee Meeting, which took place on 28th-29th September 2016, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Summary / Main outcomes:

- Some NABs (e.g. ACREDIA) wants to have special predictions for a lot of specific points. Other NABs (e.g. UKAS, DANAK) are prefer that the CABs have more flexibility;
- ILAC or IAF proved documents are mandatory for EA members;
- Strategy for EA 2025 will be present on EA-GA in 2017;
- New GUM has been stopped, but in 2017 a new GUM project will be started (duration appr. 5 years);
- A MoU between EA and EDQM has been created. There is 2 months' time for comments;
- LC will close WG ILC (Cal. and Test.), because it is not mandatory by EA-2/14 anymore;
- Work on RMP MLA has restarted with expected publication of ISO 17034;
- LC agrees to share email details of the LC TN convenors with EUROLAB.

Irache Visiers participated to the 37th Meeting of the EA Advisory Board, which took place on 12 October in Brussels.

Summary / Main outcomes:

- Final Report of the AfN Project. EA 2/17 & Blueguide;
- New Regulations using accreditation;
- General Data Protection Regulation;
- Proposed Regulation on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles;
- Application for ILAC/IAF for PTP and GHG MRA7MLA;
- Breast Cancer Service Project.

Upcoming EUROLAB Events

- **EUROLAB Board meeting**, 14 February, Brussels
- **JTC PTC**, in Edinburgh, 4 & 5 April 2017
- **EUROLAB General Assembly and Annual Meetings 2017** in Bologna, 3-4 May 2017.

International Events

Eurachem Week 2017



The Eurachem Week 2017 to be hosted in Nicosia, Cyprus during the week 29th May- 3rd June 2017. The week will start with a two-day Workshop on "Uncertainty in Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis" to be followed by a day devoted to meetings of Working Groups of Eurachem.

The Executive Committee meeting and the General Assembly will be held on the 1st and 2nd June. On the 3rd June a trip to Pafos, the Cultural Capital of Europe 2017 will be organised for those who can spare an additional day.

All information regarding accommodation, travel and visa arrangements, the programme of the workshop and the whole week, submission of abstracts, deadlines, fees, social events, tourism etc. appear on the website of the Week, namely <https://www.ucy.ac.cy/eurachem2017>.

For any inquiries please contact eurachem2017cy@gmail.com

18th International Metrology Congress 2017

18th International Metrology Congress will take place on 19-21 September 2017 in Paris. The conference will present the technologies in measurement, explore industrial challenges and the latest innovations through a diversified conference programme, round tables sessions, technical site visits, demonstrations, and an exhibition showcasing innovations.

Some key topics at the conference will be: dynamic measures, data metrology, new ISO 17025, pharmaceutical industry, smart grids, sources and energy consumption

For further information please visit the website: <http://www.cim2017.com/index-en.html>



- **Global Food Safety Conference** in Houston, Texas, 28 February - 02 March 2017
- **Joint IAF-ILAC Mid-term meetings** in Frankfurt, 31 March - 07 April 2017
- **Medtec Europe** in Messe Stuttgart Germany , 4-6 April 2017
- **ISO CASCO and PASC / COPANT meetings** in Vancouver, 24 April - 5 May 2017
- **EUROLAB General Assembly & Annual Meetings 2017** in Bologna, 03-04 May 2017
- **EA General Assembly** in Bled, Slovenia, 23-24 May 2017
- **Eurachem Week 2017** in Nicosia, Cyprus 29 May - 03 June 2017
- **XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2017** in Singapore, 03-06 September 2017
- **The 14th International conference "Application of Contemporary Non-destructive Testing in Engineering"** in St. Bernardin/Portož, Slovenia, 04-06 September 2017
- **WOS2017 - 9th International Conference on the Prevention of Accidents at Work** in Prague, 03-06 October 2017
- **Joint IAF-ILAC Annual Meetings** in Vancouver, 21-30 October 2017